

ALTHEA LARSEN TORLIATT

OF WILSON LANE

Our life was a simple life. My dad and mom worked hard. We generally always had a working man who had his own house but he ate meals with us. My dad paid him a small salary.

Our social life revolved around our school — PTA, Community Nights. Mom was clerk of the school board. Her parents lived on Park Avenue in Petaluma. We had a close bond with them and her sister and husband, who had a butcher shop, and her brother and family who had a grocery store on Kentucky Street. Riewerts Meat Market and Anderton's Cash and Carry Grocery were also close. My dad had brought one of his brothers from Denmark and he had a poultry ranch close to ours.

Christmas was always financially down for us. Cold weather affected the hen's laying and the price of eggs was down, perhaps 10 cents a dozen. I was lucky to get a lunch box with crayons. One year I remember I got a beautiful doll I had seen in Tomasini's Hardware. She had a pink dress. My cousin, whose father was a butcher and affluent, got the same doll in a yellow dress. I think my parents sacrificed to get the six dollars for that doll. It is surely a pleasant memory for me now.

We always had good food. My mother was a good cook and she kept a nice home.

Our biggest and only vacation was with my grandparents. We started out for the Olympic Games in L.A., about 1931. We got as far as Santa Cruz. My dad and grandpa went deep sea fishing and

they got so sick. I wanted to go with them so badly. They sneaked off without me. In 1980, I went deep sea fishing in Maui and I didn't get sick.

We always had lots of fox terrier dogs. My dad used to breed them and sell them in San Francisco at Robinson's. Then fox terriers lost their appeal.

Although mom was born in the U.S. and a citizen by birth, because she married my dad, a non-citizen of the U.S., she lost her citizenship and she had to take out citizenship papers with my dad. The law changed and it doesn't happen now.

CONVERSATION WITH ALTHEA, JULY 26, 1994

Maxine: How did your mother feel about having the hired man at the table?

Althea: It was alright with her. There were several of them, and they always stayed for a good period of time. I remember Mr. Boysen. He was somewhat crotchety, and I would kick him under the table just to rile him. He complained, of course, to my parents. He stayed with us for five years.

Q. Where was your place?

A. Off Middle Two Rock Road. Route 2, Box 44, Wilson Lane. First lane on your left as you go out from town on Bodega and then onto Middle Two Rock Road.

Q. Your mother was...

A. She was Gertrude Althea Anderton. Her parents were Daniel and Annie. They came from Talent, Oregon. First her father and her uncle came by train, then she and her mother and her sister followed, also by train. At the station in Petaluma they were met by her father and her uncle, her father carrying a big umbrella. It was pouring rain. She never forgot that scene.

She worked at the Petaluma Cooperative Creamery as a bookkeeper, for George Dondero. She was working there when she met my father.

He was Axel Oluf Larsen. My mother changed his name to Albert, and he was known as Albert O. Larsen. He came from Nykobing Falster, Denmark, in 1906, I think to escape his family of brothers. He was the middle child. He returned to Denmark in two years and brought back with him a brother, Hans, who begged to come with him. Hans had a chicken ranch around the corner from ours.

My mother's sister married Chris Riewerts.

Q. Were the dogs that your father raised good rat terriers?

A. Oh, yes. People bought them, paid him \$5.00 for a male, \$1.00 for a female. Robinson's was a pet store in San Francisco.

Maxine Kortum Durney

PETALUMA HISTORICAL MUSEUM
Oral History Program

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PLACE _____

DATE 11-29-97

Althea M. Torliatt
(Interviewee)

(for the Petaluma Historical Museum)

PETALUMA HISTORICAL LIBRARY AND MUSEUM
Oral History Program
Narrator Personal Information Questionnaire

Name TORLIATT, ALTHEA MAE LARSEN
Last First Middle (Maiden)

Address 97 Pepper Ln. Petaluma, CA. 94952

Marital status: Married ☒ Single ☐ Divorced ☐ Widowed ☐

Birthdate 2-20-21 Birthplace AT HOME R2 Box 44 Petaluma

Length of residence in Petaluma (or Sonoma County) 70

Education: Elementary school Wilson School

Secondary school Petaluma Jr High Grad ☐

College Santa Rosa Jr College Grad ☐

Other SF STATE - SONOMA

Occupation(s) or former occupations(s) Elementary Educator
Mother, Clerk TYPIST, Telephone
operator

Travels Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Russia,
France, Germany, Amsterdam, England, Ireland

Organizations, clubs American ASSN of University
Women, Petaluma Museum, VFW AUXILIARY

Other special interests Bridge, Mah Jongg, Reading
Gardening,

Additional comments _____

THANK YOU!

PETALUMA HISTORICAL LIBRARY AND MUSEUM
Oral History Program
Family History Questionnaire

Name	Birthdate	Birthplace	Deceased? Date
Parents* <u>Albert Oluf LARSEN</u>	<u>2-18-</u>	<u>Denmark</u>	<u>11-52</u>
	<u>1884</u>	<u>Nykobing Falster</u>	
<u>Gertrude Althea Anderton Larsen</u>	<u>7-6-96</u>		<u>12-6</u>
			<u>1979</u>

Brothers & Sisters None

Grand-parents* Petersen

<u>Sofie, Nels Larsen</u>	<u>Denmark</u>	<u>Yes</u>
<u>Clark</u>	<u>Canada</u>	<u>Yes</u>
<u>Annie, Dan Anderton</u>	<u>Northampton, England</u>	

Spouse CHARLES Peter Torliatt

Children Dan, Charles 4-27-44 San Diego

Charles, Peter 6-7-47 Petaluma 2-9-68 Vietnam

Patricia Ann 2-14-53 "

Kathy Rene 10-4-62 "

Grandchildren Pamela Marie Torliatt " 4-14-67

Jonathan Torliatt 2-18-71

Jaime Althea Moats 4-15-79

*Please include maiden name of mother and grandmothers.

THANK YOU!

453